

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

June 26, 2007

George W. Bush
The President
The White House
Washington, DC 20500-0003

Dear Mr. President,

We are writing to urge you to investigate how defective and dangerous Chinese-made automobile tires were sold in the United States. Additionally, we urge you to direct the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) to take immediate steps to recall these defective tires.

As many as 450,000 Chinese-made tires sold in the U.S. lack the "gum strip," a key safety feature consisting of a thin layer of rubber between the steel belts that increases durability. These tires were manufactured by China's Hangzhou Zhongee Rubber Co. and distributed in the U.S. by Foreign Tire Sales, Inc. (FTS) under the brand names Westlake, Telluride, Compass, and YKS. Without the gum strip, tires treads are more likely to separate, which can have tragic consequences. At least one fatal accident, in which two passengers were killed, has raised serious questions about the safety of these tires.

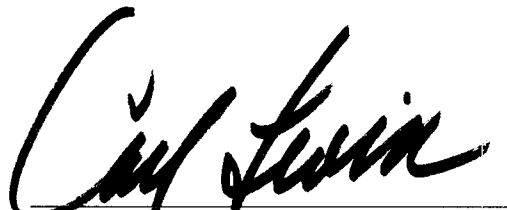
Amazingly, the NHTSA has not pushed for an immediate recall of these defective products. Instead, it is currently squabbling with FTS over whether FTS has the funds to pay for the recall. With lives potentially at stake, the NHTSA must take an aggressive stance and ensure that a recall goes forward without delay. Part of the delay has reportedly been caused by the failure of the Chinese manufacturer to provide the identification numbers of the affected tires. We urge you to push Chinese leaders to have such information made available immediately.

These defective tires are the latest in a string of dangerous products coming from China. From melamine-tainted pet food that killed hundreds of animals nationwide to lead paint on children's toys and poison in toothpaste, Chinese companies have too often demonstrated a flagrant disregard for U.S. safety laws. Mr. President, your administration must investigate how all of these dangerous products made it into the U.S. market and make enforcement of these safety laws a top priority. Finally, you must demand that the Chinese government take action to ensure that Chinese companies are not peddling dangerous products to our citizens.

Sincerely,



Senator Debbie Stabenow
United States Senator



Senator Carl Levin
United States Senator

Sherrod Brown

Senator Sherrod Brown
United States Senator

Bob Casey, Jr.

Senator Robert Casey
United States Senator